



Don't Gamble with Our Future... ... Crime and Gambling

- Counties with casinos have a higher crime rate than counties without.
- Society and the economy pay a heavy price.
- Counties that neighbor casino counties also experience crime increases.

A county with a casino has an eight percent higher crime rate than a county without a casino four years after the casino is opened. **David Mustard and Earl Grinols 1999**

Grinols and Mustard estimate that the costs of opening a casino are at least 1.9 times more than its benefits. Society, and the economy, pay a heavy price for such “economic activity.”

Eight percent of property crime and 10 percent of violent crime in counties with casinos was due to the presence of the casino. **Casinos, Crime and Community Costs – June 2000**

Counties that neighbor casino counties also experience crime increases. This statistic indicates that crime spilled over from casino counties into neighbor counties, rather than shifting crime from one area to another. **Casinos, Crime and Community Costs – June 2000**

A *U.S. News & World Report* analysis found average national crime rates in casino communities to be 84% higher than communities without casinos. **Joseph P. Shapiro, “America’s Gambling Fever,” U.S. News & World Report, January 15, 1996, pp. 58. 60.**

In 1989, two members of the Department of Economics at Temple University

conducted a study regarding the influence of casinos on crime in Atlantic City and surrounding areas. Their research revealed that, "Controlling for wealth, unemployment, and size of police force and standardizing by population, it was found that the post casino years (since 1978) showed a markedly higher incidence of crime. Also, crime fell with the distance, in minutes of travel, from Atlantic City" (*Hakim and Buck 1989, 410*).

"In Central City, [Colorado], just two years after gambling was introduced, assaults and thefts had already increased by 400 percent, and there were approximately eight times as many arrests for drunken driving (*Spayd, 1993, p. 1D*). In nearby Black Hawk, the town was forced to hire 22 additional police officers to handle the added crime burden (*Bogert, 1994, p. 23*). To the south, the town of Cripple Creek has increased the size of its police force from three in 1991 to 24 (*Long, Clark, and Liston, 1994, p. 46*), and annual arrests on DUI charges have risen from approximately five to 200 (*Hamilton, 1994*) (*Reno, 1994*).

Nevada ranked first in crime rates among the fifty states in both 1995 and 1996, based on an analysis of FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics. *Ed Koch, "Nevada: Most Dangerous?" Las Vegas Sun, July 16, 1997, page 1a.*

Crime in American counties with casinos has fallen at a slower rate than it has in counties without gambling, was reported by the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. *Foresight, Vol. 6, No. 4, 1999*

William Thompson of the University of Nevada - Las Vegas, examined the impact of casino openings in Wisconsin on crime rates from 1992 to 1994. After correcting for other factors, he found that compared to the state as a whole, these areas experienced increased rates of major violent crimes such as murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault and major property offenses, burglary and larceny. *William N. Thompson et al., "Casinos and Crime in Wisconsin: What's the Connection?" Wisconsin Policy Research Institute Report, Vol. 9, No. 9, November 1996*